

ORIGINAL

Nos. 13-17102, 13-17154

IN THE
**United States Court of Appeals
for the Ninth Circuit**

FACEBOOK, INC.,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

STEVEN VACHANI,

Defendant-Appellant,

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of California
Case No. 5:08-cv-05780-LHK, Honorable Lucy Koh

EMERGENCY MOTION UNDER CIRCUIT RULE 27-3

STEVEN VACHANI
2425B Channing, #216
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Pro se Appellant

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CIRCUIT RULE 27-3 CERTIFICATE

I, STEVEN VACHANI, am the individual Defendant-Appellant in these consolidated matters, and I certify as follows:

1. My contact information is:

2425B Channing, #216
Berkeley, CA 94704
vachani@outlook.com
Telephone: (917) 267-8823
Pro se Appellant

2. This Emergency Motion under Circuit Rule 27-3 is necessary because an order on the requested relief will be moot if not made within 21 days pursuant to Rule 27-3, as the motion requests relief that must be effected on December 9, 2015.

3. Opposing counsel will be notified of this motion no later than the date and time it is filed with the Clerk of the Court.

I certify that the above statements are true and correct under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Dated: 11-25-2015



/s/
Steven Vachani, *Pro se* Defendant-
Appellant

Nos. 13-17102, 13-17154

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**DEFENDANT-APPELLANT VACHANI'S MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION TO ALLOW VACHANI TIME FOR ORAL
ARGUMENT**

STEVEN VACHANI
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Pro se Appellant

As this court prepares to make a landmark decision that could challenge this country's long standing tradition of preserving the corporate veil to protect and limit the liability of a corporation's executives, directors, entrepreneurs/innovators, and shareholders, I, Defendant-Appellant Steven Vachani, file this Motion for Reconsideration of the Court's order taking the above-referenced consolidated matters under submission without oral argument from me.

I am hereby seeking permission of the Court to allow me time to present oral arguments on my own behalf as the third party in these appeals, nos. 13-17102, 13-17154, filed December 16, 2013. Oral arguments in these consolidated matters are currently scheduled for December 9, 2015 with Defendant-Appellant Power Ventures, Inc. and Plaintiff-Appellee Facebook, Inc. each having 20 minutes, with counsel for amicus curiae Electronic Frontier Foundation being allotted 5 of Power Venture's 20 minutes.

For the reasons set out below, I request the Court allot to me time to present oral argument on December 9, 2015 in addition to the times already allotted to the other parties. The distinct issues pertaining to my personal liability are completely independent and divergent from the interests of Power Venture's dozens of other corporate, venture capital, and individual shareholders, executives, former employees, former directors, and other stakeholders.

As I argued in the ‘Supplemental damages briefing’ (Case5:08-cv-05780-LHK Document317- Exhibit A), "a damages decision against an individual executive of a technology startup could have irreparable and a damaging effect on fellow entrepreneurs and their fellow entrepreneurial executives to pursue world changing innovations. A severely adverse decision regarding damages could also set a dangerous precedent and potentially endanger and scare thousands innovative startup companies from pursing the kind innovation that has led to the creation of the companies that have changed lives of billions of Internet users."

'Traditionally, officers were not personally liable for corporate torts absent a showing that the corporate veil was pierced. The protection of the personal assets of officers and shareholders was considered so important, that exceptions were rare. The purpose of limited liability is to promote commerce and industrial growth by encouraging shareholders to make capital contributions to corporations without subjecting all of their personal wealth to the risks of the business.' David H. Barber, *Piercing the Corporate Veil*, 17 Willamette L. Rev. 371, 371 (1980-1981).'

Without permission to appear on my own behalf as a pro se party in these consolidated matters, I will be substantially prejudiced in that the laws applicable to my personal liability in the underlying matter are fundamentally distinct from those applicable to the liability of Power Ventures. As such, any questions by the Court regarding my personal liability will not be adequately addressed, if at all, by

Power Ventures.

These core issues related to my personal liability and damages were argued at length in the briefing that I previously submitted in this case. (**SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF BY PRO SE DEFENDANT STEVEN VACHANI REGARDING DAMAGES Case5:08-cv-05780-LHK Document317 – EXHIBIT A**). This briefing specifically addressed these issues:

- (1) CEO's have a duty to be involved in the operations of the corporation and mere title does not trigger personal liability.
- (2) Plaintiff seeks damages that are disproportionate to the alleged offense and would be crippling to any individual
- (3) Public Policy requires that court to impose personal liability with caution

Furthermore, this court must be reminded that the consolidated appeals at issue do not arise out of the same final judgment in the same court action. In fact, the appeals arise from entirely distinct and factually unrelated orders. On October 21, 2013, this Court docketed appeal No. 13-17102, which was brought by me, the individual Defendant-Appellant, appealing Judge Joseph Spero's August 7, 2013 order for sanctions based on a single primary issue: whether the individual deponent in this matter is liable for discovery sanctions resulting from a renewed 30(b)(6) hearing.

On October 25, 2013, this Court docketed appeal No. 13-17154, which was brought by both Defendants-Appellants appealing the Court's summary and final judgments issued by former Chief Judge Ware and Judge Lucy Koh, respectively, and a substantial portion of which deals with my personal liability for the legal implications of Power Ventures' actions. Only I represent my personal interests in these matters as a pro se party, and only I can speak to the issues of personal liability, the implications of which are financially catastrophic to me and my family in the event this Court declines to reverse the trial court's judgment.

WHEREFORE, I, the individual Defendant-Appellant, pray the Court allow me to present oral argument alongside Power Ventures and on my own behalf in support of the issues on appeal that are specific to my personal liability for the actions of the corporate Defendant-Appellant.

Dated: November 23, 2015

Respectfully submitted,



/s/ _____
Steven Vachani, *Pro se* Defendant-Appellant

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

“SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF BY PRO SE
DEFENDANT STEVEN VACHANI
REGARDING DAMAGES”

NAME: Steven Vachani
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

FACEBOOK, INC.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

POWER VENTURES, INC. a Cayman Island Corporation, STEVEN VACHANI, an individual; DOE 1, d/b/a POWER.COM, an individual and/or business entity of unknown nature; DOES 2 through 25, inclusive, individuals and/or business entities of unknown nature,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:08-CV-05780 JW

**SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF BY PRO SE
DEFENDANT STEVEN VACHANI
REGARDING DAMAGES**

Date: August 15, 2012
Chief Judge James Ware

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1 **I. COURT ALLOWS *PRO SE* DEFENDANT VACHANI TO FILE A**
2 **SUPPLMENTAL BRIEF ON THE ISSUE OF DAMAGES**

3 I would like to start off by humbly requesting the Court respect my lack of
4 legal education and overlook my lack of technical accuracy in reference to legal
5 terminology and legal prose. Instead, I request you please give due consideration to
6 the substance of the following briefing. I would like to cite the following precedents
7 regarding this statement.

8
9
10 **Non-Lawyer pro se litigants not to be held to same standards as a practicing**
11 **lawyer.**

12 "Pleadings in this case are being filed by Defendant In Propria Persona,
13 wherein pleadings are to be considered without regard to technicalities. Propria
14 pleadings are not to be held to the same high standards of perfection as practicing
15 lawyers. See *Haines v. Kerner*, 92 S.Ct. 594 (1927); *Powell v. Lennon*, 914 F.2d
16 1459 (11th Cir 1990); *Hulsey v. Owens*, 63 F.3d 354 (5th Cir 1995); *Hall v. Bellmon*,
17 935 F.2d 1106 (10th Cir. 1991). In *Puckett v. Cox*, it was held that a pro-se pleading
18 requires less stringent reading than one drafted by a lawyer, 456 F.2d 233 (6th Cir.
19 1972). Justice Black in *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41(1957), held "The Federal
20 Rules rejects the approach that pleading is a game of skill in which one misstep by
21 counsel may be decisive to the outcome and accept the principle that the purpose of
22 pleading is to facilitate a proper decision on the merits. According to Rule 8(f) FRCP
23 and the State Court rule which holds that all pleadings shall be construed to do
24 substantial justice." *Id.* at 48.

1 By now, the Court is very familiar with the proceedings. As a co-defendant, I am
2 respectfully filing this supplemental brief regarding the issue of damages and
3 personal liability pursuant to the Honorable Court's order dated August 8, 2012. In
4 that order, Judge Ware granted myself, Steven Vachani, who is now proceeding *pro
se*,¹ the opportunity to make additional arguments regarding the issue of damages
5 and why the Court should not find me personally liable for the alleged actions of co-
6 defendant, Power Ventures, Inc., a corporation.
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11 **II. CEOs HAVE A DUTY TO BE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATIONS OF**
12 **THE CORPORATION AND MERE TITLE DOES NOT TRIGGER**
13 **PERSONAL LIABILITY**

14 Plaintiff argues that I, as CEO of Power Ventures, should be liable for
15 damages because I “directed and authorized **all** of the activity giving rise to liability
16 to a degree that reflects far more than [my] supervisory role of the company as
17 CEO.” (Facebook, Inc.’s Supplemental Brief Regarding Damages and Liability of
18 Defendant Steve Vachani, hereafter, “FB Damages Brief”) (emphasis added).
19

20 In their Brief seeking damages, Facebook cites several cases that are neither
21 persuasive nor on point. Specifically, Plaintiff erroneously cites to an order entered
22 by this Court in the case *Louis Vuitton Malletier, S.A. v. Akanoc Solutions, Inc.*, as an
23 example of individual liability due to the corporation’s owner having nearly
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¹ I, Steven Vachani, filed a Notice of Self-Representation on August 9, 2012 after I was unable to
27 secure legal representation due to the complex nature of this case and the history. I was previously
28 represented by counsel, and counsel was granted leave to withdraw approximately one month
earlier on July 2, 2012.

1 “complete control” over corporate operations. (FB Damages Brief, citation omitted).
2 This case, however, is easily distinguished from the facts in the present case. First,
3 the *Mallettier* case involved contributory copyright infringement, and the issue of
4 whether the defendants had direct knowledge of the infringement. Thus, the question
5 of direct knowledge was the trigger for the defendant’s liability. In that case, the
6 issue of liability rested first and foremost on whether or not the individual had direct
7 knowledge, and not whether or not liability was appropriate due to his role as owner
8 of the corporations. Therefore, the analysis is not applicable to the present case.
9
10 Second, the individual in *Mallettier* was the sole owner of the defendant corporations,
11 while I am not and was never the sole owner (or even a controlling shareholder or
12 controlling board member) of Power Ventures, which had over 100 full-time
13 employees, approximately six other executive officers as well as over a dozen other
14 shareholders and multiple board members reflecting the multiple and diverse
15 interests and opinions of many these different shareholders. The company also had
16 received over \$7.5 million in outside investment from venture capital and other
17 sophisticated technology investors who shared in the decision making structure of
18 the company through a fairly standard board and shareholder governance structure
19 that is common in technology corporations that have received significant outside
20 investment capital. The records are replete with evidence that I consulted, relied on,
21 and discussed ideas, business plans, and programming with many other
22 professionals, board members, and shareholders. I was not the sole owner or
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1 decision-maker at Power Ventures. Third, unlike the individual in *Malletier*, I did not
2 have the knowledge or training to exert the type of control over the corporation that
3 the Plaintiff alleges.² I have limited programming skills (I have never in my life
4 programmed a single piece of technical code in a professional manner), and I relied
5 on team members including the Chief Technical Officer, Eric Santos, to oversee all a
6 wide set of technical employees in our company. In fact, Eric Santos and his group
7 of several other managers who reported to him, was in charge of hiring almost all of
8 our technical programmers who all possessed skills beyond my own. In addition, Mr.
9 Santos also assisted in marketing, which the Plaintiff failed to acknowledge and is
10 significant because Plaintiff alleges that I acted alone with respect to the creation and
11 implementation of the Power 100 Campaign. The marketing manager, Bruno
12 Carvalho reported directly to Eric Santos and a majority of the meetings, decisions,
13 and marketing initiatives were made by a diverse group of employees who worked in
14 the groups supervised directly by Bruno Carvalho and Eric Santos. This is supported
15 by the evidence, specifically in my answers at the deposition that Mr. Santos was
16 instrumental in marketing strategies because Mr. Santos possessed the technical
17 skills necessary for marketing. (Deposition of Steve Vachani dated July 20, 2011,
18 pages 13, 36). As most of our company's marketing initiatives were product driven, I
19 delegated a wide range of these activities to the marketing team which reported to
20

21 ² This Court noted in the Feb. 16, 2012 Order Granting Plaintiff's Motions for Summary Judgment;
22 Denying Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment, that I consulted with staff and suggested a
23 plan, but stated “[I] [d]on't really understand this too well. Greg may also have some ideas.” (pg.
24 16, line 10-11).

1 other senior executives.

2 In addition, Plaintiff emphatically states that I “**have been personally**
3 **involved** in all of Power’s operations,” as if that was enough to trigger personal
4 liability. (emphasis added by Plaintiff). Just because a CEO is “personally involved”
5 in operations does not automatically mean that he is the “guiding spirit” behind the
6 contested conduct. CEOs, by design, are “personally involved” in most, if not all
7 aspects of a corporation. The courts, however, require significantly more.

8 For example, “[Mark] Zuckerberg³ consolidated his authority with bylaws that
9 gave him an incontestable voting majority on the company’s board.” Brad Stone &
10 Douglass MacMillan: *How Mark Zuckerberg Hacked the Valley*, Bloomberg
11 Businessweek, May 17, 2012, available at <http://www.businessweek.com/2012-05-17/how-mark-zuckerberg-hacked-the-valley>. In contrast, there is no evidence that I
12 enjoyed such control over Power Ventures considering I did not have control over
13 the board of directors and did not having a controlling shareholder stake in the
14 company at the time of the company activities being evaluated in this case

15 Moreover, another case discussed by the Plaintiff is also easily distinguished.
16 In *Davis v. Metro Productions, Inc.*, two individual defendants were the **sole**
17 **shareholders** of the corporation, and the legal issue was whether or not the court had
18 proper personal jurisdiction based on the long-arm statute. Thus, the discussion of
19 whether or not the individuals were the “guiding spirit” or the “central figure” of the

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28 ³ Mark Zuckerberg is CEO of Plaintiff Facebook, Inc.

1 relevant corporate activity was in the context of personal jurisdiction. In fact,
2 footnote 10, cited by the Plaintiff, actually acknowledge the significant differences
3 inherent in the analysis, “potential consequences would arise where sufficient
4 minimum contacts existed to permit jurisdiction over the individual defendant, but
5 where the substantive prerequisites do not exist for liability to be imposed on the
6 individual in his personal capacity.” 885 F. 2nd 515, 523 n. 10 (9th Cir. 1989).

7 Other cases cited by the Plaintiff offer very little instruction to this Court
8 because they are significantly different from the present case. In *F.T.C. v. Sili*
9 *Neutraceauticals, L.L.C.*, the individual was the **sole** officer; in *F.T.C. v. Phoenix*
10 *Avatar, L.L.C.*, the plaintiff was seeking a preliminary injunction which is a much
11 lower standard than the present case; and in *Hanger Prosthetics & Orthotics, Inc. v.*
12 *Capstone Orthopedic, Inc.*, the court ruled on a motion for summary judgment which
13 required a mere showing that a reasonable jury **could** infer that the CEO authorized,
14 directed, or participated in unlawful acts. (citations omitted). The Plaintiff cannot
15 cite to any case that is on point because the Plaintiff is asking this Court to extend the
16 boundaries of officer liability too far, and courts have routinely refused to do that in
17 CAN-SPAM, CFAA and §502 cases.
18

19 **III. PLAINTIFF SEEKS DAMAGES THAT ARE DISPROPORTIONATE TO**
20 **THE ALLEGED OFFENSE AND WOULD BE CRIPPLING TO ANY**
21 **INDIVIDUAL**

22 “The district court has ‘wide discretion in determining the amount of statutory
23 damages to be awarded.’” *DirectTV, Inc. v. Le*, 267 Fed. Appx. 636, 636 (9th Cir.
24

1 2008) (citation omitted). However, a statutory damages award may violate the due
2 process rights of a defendant “where the penalty prescribed is so severe and
3 oppressive as to be wholly disproportionate to the offense and obviously
4 unreasonable.” *United States v. Citrin*, 972 F.2d 1044, 1051 (9th Cir. 1992) (citation
5 omitted). Here, the Plaintiff has asked this Court for a staggering \$18,188,100 in
6 damages; and further to hold me jointly and severally liable. A salary of a startup
7 Internet industry CEO, which has been my primary profession and source of income
8 for the majority of the past 15 years, ranges between \$100,000-\$250,000 base and it
9 is very common that little or no salary is given during the earliest stages of new
10 projects or during tough times where startup companies may be short on cash. This
11 of course has been the case in relation to Power Ventures over the past three years.
12 Plaintiff is also attempting to further create additional onerous restrictions that could
13 make it difficult for me to work, invest in, or taken an ownership stake in other
14 companies in my industry. As this is my lifeblood to earn my income to care for
15 myself, family, and children, such harsh statutes against my future activities with
16 other companies is completely unprecedented. I was an employee of Power Ventures
17 with specific and limited duties and control, just like any one of the 100 or so other
18 employees of Power Ventures. To hold me, or any one of the other agents of Power
19 Ventures would be a dangerous precedent to set. I therefore respectfully ask this
20 Court to carefully consider how the weight of any damages assessed would impact
21 an individual and his or her family and dependents as opposed to a corporation and

1 its diverse group of accredited and sophisticated investors and shareholders.
2

3 Similarly, I am asking this Court to award no damages to Facebook as argued
4 in papers previously submitted. Plaintiff has asked for damages based on \$300 per
5 estimated occurrence, yet no court has awarded more than \$50 per message – and
6 those were for infractions that truly embody “hacking.” For example, *Facebook, Inc.*
7
8 *v. Fisher*, No. C09-05842 JF (PSG), 2011 WL 250395 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 26, 2011), the
9 court refused to award Facebook over 2.1 billion dollars pursuant maximum
10 penalties to CAM-SPAM. Instead, the court awarded \$50 per email, however, the
11 offense in *Fisher* was significantly different than in the present case. In *Fisher*, the
12 individual defendant was the “sole person to act” on behalf of the corporation, and he
13 obtained the login credentials of 116,000 Facebook users without authorization, and
14 sent 7.2 million emails. Significant damages, complaints, and other security threats
15 were clearly documented to support the magnitude of decisions made in this case. As
16 mentioned, in the present case, Power Ventures, with complete authorization and
17 clear consent and permission by its users, is alleged to have helped its users create
18 events upon which Facebook’s system sent an email informing the user that their
19 friend had created an event which supported Power.com. Yet, plaintiff has been
20 unable to identify a single complaint from a Facebook user in response to those
21 alleged emails.
22

23 Similarly, in *Facebook, Inc. v. Wallace*, No. C09-798 JF (RS), 2009 WL
24 3617789 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 29, 2009), the court refused to award Facebook over 7
25

1 billion dollars despite the allegations that the defendant sent over 14 million emails
2 and violated a TRO and “willfully violated the statutes in question with blatant
3 disregard for the rights of Facebook and the thousands of Facebook users whose
4 accounts were compromised by his conduct.” *Id.* at *4. The court awarded Facebook
5 \$50 per violation, and again, the actions alleged in *Wallace* are significantly more
6 egregious than the allegations in the present case. I could find no case where the
7 court actually awarded Facebook the amount they asked for. Moreover in both of
8 these cases I just mentioned, Facebook unsuccessfully asked the court for the
9 **maximum** statutory awards permitted, and in both cases, the court refused, even
10 though the actions in both cases fit squarely under the types of “phishing” schemes
11 that CAN-SPAM intended to combat.
12

13 Despite the fact that the court has found a violation of CAN-SPAM in its
14 summary judgment, I humbly request that the Court consider the following final
15 points prior to making a determination of the magnitude, ill-intent, and damages
16 caused by these messages. In particular, I would ask the court to give special
17 attention and consideration of the level or magnitude of ill intent by myself as CEO
18 and damages as it relates to my personal liability. I also request that the Court
19 consider the magnitude and potential impacts of its potential ruling on damages and
20 personality liability to the rest of the industry of startup entrepreneurs, early stage
21 internet industry investors, and executives who could be dramatically by decision
22 that adversely effects the personal livelihood and family of an executive employee of
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1 a startup company . Please consider these important points.
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- 3 1) Power was at all times the authorized user agent with full permission and user
4 consent of users requesting for us to help them complete actions which they
could manually do on their own.
- 5 2) Facebook's own motion demonstrates that users were given a clear choice to
6 participate in Power's promotion and clear notice that this would involve
7 inviting their friends to an event. In its previous briefs, Facebook includes
8 Power's promotional pop-up window through which users created the
event invitation. Facebook Corrected Mot. Partial Summ. J. on Count 1 at
5:13- 23.
- 9 3) A pre-checked box plainly and prominently notifies users that they will
10 "Share with friends through events," and the box could be unchecked by
11 users who did not wish to do so. All of the users who responded to Power's
12 button could have manually invited all of their friends to Power's events;
13 creating CAN-SPAM liability for their actions because Power automated
14 this process would be unprecedeted, and extending such liability
personally to myself as the CEO of a Power Ventures would be even more
egregious.
- 15 4) The act of a user providing their user name and password and authorizing an
16 agent to send invitations on their behalf inviting users to try new services is
17 a truly standardized internet practice utilized by every major internet
18 company. Facebook itself built a very significant portion of its 900+
19 million registered users through this similar practice of asking user to share
20 their user name and password with Facebook and allowing the user to
authorize Facebook to access a competitors sites (often in violation of
21 opposing websites terms and conditions). Facebook would then pulls
friends email addresses, often against the will of a competitors site, but at
the request of the user, and then Facebook would send emails to each of a
22 users friends inviting them to Facebook. My point is that we employees
and executives of Power Ventures received trusted legal advice and
23 business advice from multiple credible sources reconfirming the legality of
these messages which Power initiated at the request and with authorization
24 from our users in a practice no different than Facebook itself practices.
This combined with common sense judgment and experience that this
25 practice was truly a legal practice and for that matter a long standing
industry practice led to the following conclusion: I honestly and sincerely
26 had no intent or belief that this practice was violating any regulations. I
27
28

1 have clarified this because I believe that sincere intent of our company's
2 employees and executives, including myself, taking these actions are
3 important and relevant when you are considering the issue of damages and
especially of damages as it relates to my personal liability.

- 4 5) I sincerely believe and continue to advocate that our 60,000 messages were
5 directed and fully authorized by users who wanted to communicate with
6 their friends. Misleading or unwanted spam messages usually have a
7 minimum threshold of spam complaints which range from .2% to 1% or
8 more from the messages sent. The undisputable fact that our 60,000
9 authorized and user directed messages did not produce even a single
10 documented complaint is the strongest statement to support my statement
11 that these actions can never be compared to the egregious actions of
arguably the world's most notorious and dangerous spammers whose
blatant hacking, phishing, and intent to spam is widely despised by most
respectable Internet industry executives.
- 12 6) On the other hand, Power's actions related to our careful steps regarding our
13 user authorized messages on Facebook have been vehemently defended by
14 the Electronic Frontier foundation in their amicus brief submitted in
support of my defense. The clear support and strong arguments of arguably
the Internet's most respected consumer rights protection group (supported
by 19,000+ paying members) only reinforce the clear differences between
of Power Ventures in respect to magnitude, damages, intent, and personal
liability. This is of course in comparison to some of the CAN-SPAM
violators and cases referred to earlier I this brief. As a respected and long
standing Internet industry entrepreneur and executive, a damages decision
against a individual executive of a technology startup could have
irreparable and a damaging effect on fellow entrepreneurs and their fellow
entrepreneurial executives to pursue the world changing innovations. A
severely adverse decision regarding damages could also set a dangerous
precedent and potentially endanger and scare thousands innovative startup
companies from pursing the kind innovation that has led to the creation of
the companies that have changed lives over 1 billion Internet users.
Facebook could also selectively target millions of its users who create
events or post messages on walls of their friends promoting their parties or
other commercial events and unknowingly subject users and companies to
harsh damages.
- 7) It must be noted and the court must be reminded that our proactive response
and civilized communication with Facebook trying to find an amicable
solution during the approximately thirty days that our system was

1 operational on Facebook clearly differentiated our interactions as
2 professional communications between two fellow technology companies
3 and not the actions of a rogue spamming organization whose intent is the
4 hack into, phish, and cause significant damages to users and companies.

- 5 8) Finally, when the court prepares to make its final decision regarding the
6 magnitude of this violation of CAN-SPAM and what the damages and
7 personal liability should be, I would ask that in good faith that the Court,
8 with the intent of determining the damages, culpability, and personal
9 liability to myself, please carefully re-read the amicus brief and arguments
10 made by the Electronic Frontier Foundation in its amicus brief submitted
11 regarding this issue in January 2012. I will only hope that the Court will be
12 able to clearly differentiate the magnitude of differences between previous
13 cases relating to the CAN SPAM act that have been referred to earlier in
14 this brief and conclude that there was no ill-intent, no harm done, no user
15 accounts compromised, and no documented damages.

16 **IV. PUBLIC POLICY REQUIRES THE COURTS TO IMPOSE PERSONAL
17 LIABILITY WITH CAUTION**

18 Traditionally, officers were not personally liable for corporate torts absent a
19 showing that the corporate veil was pierced. The protection of the personal assets of
20 officers and shareholders was considered so important, that exceptions were rare.
21 “The purpose of limited liability is to promote commerce and industrial growth by
22 encouraging shareholders to make capital contributions to corporations without
23 subjecting all of their personal wealth to the risks of the business.” David H. Barber,
24 *Piercing the Corporate Veil*, 17 Willamette L. Rev. 371, 371 (1980-1981). While the
25 limits to these protections have been somewhat narrowed recently, there are several
26 reasons why I should not be held personally liable. First, as discussed, my role as
27 CEO of Power Ventures did not require me to be involved in most, if not all aspects
28 of the business. However, I did not exert unilateral control or decision-making

1 authority. Second, Power Ventures was in its infancy, and only seeking to contribute
2 to the world of social networking and improve users' experiences. Start-up
3 companies would not be able to attract visionaries if they were subject to personal
4 liability. Finally, the conduct and goals of Power Ventures were designed to enhance
5 the social network technology. Ironically, Power Ventures goals were similar to
6 goals identified by Mark Zuckerberg, creator and CEO of Facebook In an interview
7 posted on January 27, 2007, he stated, "The most important thing is that we create an
8 open information flow for people." *Available at*
9
10 http://www.exeter.edu/news_and_events/news_events_5594.aspx. He reiterated
11 those same goals in a 2010 interview with *Wired* magazine, "The thing I really care
12 about is the mission, making the world open." *Available at*
13
14 <http://www.wired.com/business/2010/05/zuckerberg-interview/>.

15
16 In early December 2008, I spoke openly about our company's vision to create
17 a truly open Internet where users could have complete ownership and control of their
18 data and how our company's vision and products reflected the efforts and support of
19 some of the world's most respected Internet investors including Draper Fisher
20 Jurvetson.
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22

23
24 <http://vator.tv/news/2008-12-26-interview-with-powercom-ceo-steve-vachany>

25
26 **‘Draper Fisher Jurvetson (DFJ) is a venture capital firm based in Menlo Park,**
27 California with affiliate offices in more than 30 cities around the world and over \$7
28 billion in capital commitments. The firm has funded well-known technology

1 companies including Baidu, Hotmail (acquired by Microsoft), Overture (acquired by
2 Yahoo), Skype (acquired by Microsoft) and Glam Media. Other notable investments
3 include Tesla Motors, SugarCRM, Box.net, Interwoven, BrightSource Energy,
4 SpaceX, Meebo, Cafemom and SolarCity among others.

5 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draper_Fisher_Jurvetson

6
7 This Court should note that the Plaintiff has failed to identify a single
8 complaint from Facebook users in response to the services that Power Ventures
9 offered. The Plaintiff could not produce a single email complaint in response to the
10 60,000 estimated emails generated. Moreover, as discussed in previous filings, the
11 Plaintiff has cited negligible damages: specifically, three days spent by their
12 technical manager (approximately \$1500 assuming a \$120,000 salary), and legal fees
13 of \$75,000. However, legal fees should not be considered damages⁴ here for two
14 reasons: (1) the \$75,000 spent on legal fees were during a period of good faith
15 negotiations between Facebook and Power Ventures (see emails exchanged between
16 Power Ventures and Joseph Cutler demonstrating efforts to resolve this matter in
17 December 2008); and (2) the amount of resources identified here are minuscule
18 relative to the scope and breadth of Facebook. The technical manager spent
19 approximately three days and Facebook estimated 60,000 emails, which could only
20 be a small fraction of the amount of emails generated by hundreds of millions of
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⁴ See *Amicus* brief filed by Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) arguing the legal fees should not be calculated for purposes of CFAA claim.

1 Facebook users each day.

2 For these reasons pleaded in this entire brief, I humbly and fully ask this Court
3 to find no personal liability or damages.
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1 Dated: August 15th, 2012

2 By: /s/ 
3 NAME _____

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7 Representing Self - Steve Vachani

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